

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 02318

FOR: IBS IOR IBS, CINCPAC FOR USICA ADVISOR

EO 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN COUP MEDIA REACTION

1. IN THE CHRISTCHURCH "PRESS" MAY 5, 1978 THIS ARTICLE APPEARED IN THEIR SECOND EDITORIAL UNDER THE HEADING "THE COUP IN AFGHANISTAN":
2. "SOVIET DOGMA MIGHT NOT FIND FERTILE GROUND AMONG THE STRONGLY ISLAMIC PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN AFTER THE COUP AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT THERE; BUT SOVIET INFLUENCE SURELY WILL. NOT THAT THAT WILL BE NEW. THE SOVIET UNION HAS BEEN SCHEMING AND INTRIGUING IN THE AREA FOR DECADES AND IT HAS NOT BEEN ALONE IN THIS...
3. "NEVERTHELESS, IT IS TOO EARLY YET TO THINK THAT SOVIET INFLUENCE AND DESIRES WILL BE DOMINANT IN AFGHANISTAN. AFGHANIS HAVE BEEN DEALING WITH THEIR NEIGHBOUR TO THE NORTH THROUGHOUT THEIR HISTORY. THEIR ABILITY TO WITHSTAND PRESSURES SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN LIGHTLY. IF THE NEW LEADERS OF AFGHANISTAN ARE NOT MERE SOVIET STOOGES, LITTLE IS CERTAIN ABOUT THE OUTCOMES...

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4. "THE GREATEST EFFECT OF THE COUP AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FIRST COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH ASIA WILL BE ON THE IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURS AND ON RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES...
5. "THE WORST EFFECTS MAY BE FELT IN THE PROCESSES OF DETENTE; THE UNITED STATES IS ALREADY VERY UPSET BY THE

EVENTS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA IN WHICH SOVIET AND CUBAN
FORCES HAVE BEEN ENGAGED. AT ITS VERY WORST, FOR THE WORLD
AT LARGE, THE AFGHANISTAN COUP MIGHT DELAY PROGRESS ON THE
STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS." ANDERSON

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